

Service Coordination Considerations – Interface between Foster Group Care Services and FSRP Services

When multiple contractors/providers are involved in a case, collaboration is critical. The referring DHS Case Manager must ensure all individual planning needs are met at key junctures, including:

Service Planning

While a youth is in Group Care and for one month post discharge, the Group Care Caseworker is responsible for the coordination of service planning across contractors/providers. All parties need to be part of the planning to ensure the roles and responsibilities of each contractor and provider are clearly defined and that the resulting contractor/provider service plans complement one another and align with the DHS Case Permanency Plan. Planning for services during placement and in preparation for reunification/reintegration must clearly identify what the FSRP Services contractor and what the Group Care contractor will be working on with the child and family, ensuring the overall service provision is complementary and clear to the family. If the Group Care contractor and FSRP Services contractor disagree regarding service approaches, clinical perspectives, etc., they are to discuss the issue by starting with the referring DHS Case Manager. The referring DHS Case Manager, in consultation with their Supervisor, will make the final decision regarding what action is to be taken. (See dispute resolution protocols in respective contracts.)

FTDM Meetings/YTDM Meetings/Service Planning Conferences (SPC)

All FTDM and YTDM meetings must be facilitated by a currently approved meeting facilitator.

When possible, a FTDM or YTDM meeting facilitated by the FSRP Services contractor should take place prior to Group Care placement on open DHS child welfare service cases. When the Group Care contractor is known, the assigned Group Care Caseworker should be invited to the placement/level of care change FTDM or YTDM meeting and attend by either conference call or in person. When the FTDM meeting and the Service Planning Conference (SPC) occur simultaneously, each contractor must complete their required reports and include all elements specific to individual contract requirements. If a placement/level of care change FTDM or YTDM meeting is not possible, it is neither expected the SPC will be led by a FTDM or YTDM meeting facilitator nor required the SPC adhere to FTDM/YTDM meeting standards, but must ensure all information pertinent to the development of comprehensive service planning is gathered and discussed. The FSRP Services Care Coordinator should be invited to the SPC and attend by either conference call or in person. SPCs facilitated by the Group Care contractor are not a substitute for a FTDM or YTDM meeting.

The practice of holding FTDM or YTDM meetings after a child's initial placement in Group Care should be promoted, focused on further refining Family Interaction Planning, Transition Planning, Reunification/Reintegration Planning, etc. If a SPC is held prior to a scheduled FTDM or YTDM meeting, the referring DHS Case Manager should include this information on the FTDM or YTDM meeting referral form to ensure the assigned FTDM or YTDM meeting facilitator is aware of the initial planning as they begin prep work for the meeting with the youth, family, etc.

Interactions

Family Interaction planning must be discussed during the placement/level of care change FTDM or YTDM meeting or, when a placement/level of care change FTDM or YTDM meeting has not occurred prior to placement, during the SPC. When a child is placed in Group Care, the Group Care contractor is responsible for the coordination of transportation related to a child's visits or other interactions with parents and siblings. Group Care contractors are to adhere to the

Family Interaction Standards when a child has an established Family Interaction Plan. If no Family Interaction Plan is in place at the time of admission, Family Interaction planning should be addressed during the SPC. The Group Care contractor and the FSRP Services contractor should clearly define their roles in Family Interaction planning, documenting as such in their respective service plans. If the Group Care contractor and FSRP Services contractor disagree regarding their roles and responsibilities related to Family Interaction planning, they are to discuss the issue by starting with the referring DHS Case Manager. The referring DHS Case Manager, in consultation with their Supervisor, will make the final decision regarding what action is to be taken. (See dispute resolution protocols in respective contracts.)

Examples of Possible Overlap

When a youth is placed in Group Care and FSRP Services are involved in the case, the Group Care Caseworker is responsible for coordinating and facilitating daily contact between the youth and his/her parents, as well as weekly face to face contact between the youth and his/her parents, ensuring transportation is not a barrier that prevents a youth from family engagement. If there are siblings in the home, the FSRP Services Care Coordinator will work with the siblings and parents per the identified frequency of contact. The Group Care Caseworker is also responsible for coordinating and facilitating any community services/connections identified in youth's Group Care service plan and/or DHS Case Permanency Plan. The referring DHS Case Manager and the FSRP Services Care Coordinator should be included in the development of the Group Care service plan and may assist as determined during collaborative discussion. The FSRP Services Care Coordinator will integrate the Group Care service plan/reintegration plan into FSRP service planning as they meet with the parents and siblings in the home.

Interpreter services may be needed for formal staffings and interactions for family members who are hearing or sight impaired, non-English speaking, when English is a second language, and/or for other identified needs. If a staffing/interaction requires an interpreter, the contractor responsible for the meeting is responsible for ensuring the coordination of interpreter services. The Group Care Caseworker should coordinate interpreter services for all scheduled staffings, including SPCs, progress staffings, discharge staffings, and other meetings that include the parents. The FSRP Services Care Coordinator will coordinate interpreter or translation services as necessary when facilitating a FTDM or YTDM meeting and during the course of FSRP Services delivery while meeting in the home.

A plan to transport the youth to Court Hearings during placement in Group Care is recommended to be established upon admission, to include roles and responsibilities of each party.